

**PARTICULARS OF RICE, PADDY, ETC., PURCHASED BY GOVERNMENT**

**115. Mr. B. M. Peter** (*Latin Christians-Mattancheri*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how many bags of rice were purchased outside Cochin State by each purchasing officer since food control began;

(b) what is the total expense incurred by each of them including their salary;

(c) has the Travancore Government contributed any portion of the expenses spent by our Government for the purpose?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): (a) Government regret that the information cannot be disclosed.

|        |                               | Rs.   | A. | P. |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| (b) 1. | States' Rice Officer, Cuttack | 1,319 | 1  | 9  |
| 2.     | Do. Central Provinces         | 1,835 | 1  | 6  |
| 3.     | Do. Karachi                   | 1,985 | 5  | 0  |
| 4.     | Do. Bezwada                   | 5,745 | 5  | 9  |
| 5.     | Do. Tanjore                   | 2,377 | 13 | 0  |

(c) The Travancore Government is to contribute towards the expenses in proportion to the quotas allotted to them.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know what is the rate per bag of rice in these purchases?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): Of course, rates vary.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*): May I know the minimum and the maximum prices?

**Mr. President**: The rates vary in different localities and from time to time. The minimum is about 19 and odd rupees and the maximum about Rs. 40.

**Mr. A. L. Antony** (*Irinjalakkuda*): Who is the gentleman who went to Bezwada?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): Several officers, Mr. Raman, Mr. Chandrasekharan and then Mr. Isaac. Now, Mr. Isaac alone is there.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** (*Chalakkudi*): May I know why the expenditure is so high in Bezwada?

**Mr. President**: The expenses are high, because about 75 per cent of the rice has come from Bezwada and the purchasing operations have been going on there for a long time. I may also state that nearly 4/5ths of the purchases go to Travancore and so, Travancore will pay most of the cost, because the officers are also working for Travancore.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** (*Mattancheri*): With all these efforts are we getting now our adequate quota?

**Mr. President**: I answered that question in my budget speech. I regret to say that you have forgotten it.

**116. Mrs. K. Joshua** (*Trichur-Women*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the quantity of paddy purchased in the month of Edavam and Mithunam 1118 from cultivators and land holders of the State by the Civil Supply (Food Directorate) Department;

(b) the rate at which paddy was paid for;

(c) whether any Government officer or officers have satisfied themselves about the quality of paddy thus purchased, if so, who were those officers?

(d) have Government ever received complaints from the public that the paddy sold to wholesale purchasers and licensed dealers from the Government depots in Edavam and Mithunam were of very inferior quality and that it yielded only two edangalies of rice per para of paddy;

(e) what was the price at which this paddy was sold to the public?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): (a) It is not desirable in the public interest to disclose the figures.

(b) Re. 1—5—8 for one para of Anakomban and Re. 1—4—0 for other varieties.

(c) Yes. The Tahsildars who were engaged in the grain purchasing work.

(d) There were some complaints that paddy distributed from some of the shops in certain Taluks was of inferior quality which did not yield the usual out-turn of rice. But these complaints were enquired into and the Government were pleased to make a reduction of 25 per cent in the price of such inferior paddy.

(e) Anakomban Re. 0—2—6 per edangali. Other varieties Re. 0—2—4 per edangali. In the case of inferior quality the price was reduced by 25 per cent.

**Mrs. K. Joshua (Trichur-Women):** May I know whether the reduction of 25 per cent will sufficiently compensate for the inferiority of rice?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** That is what we find on enquiry. The maximum decrease in the outturn of rice will be sufficiently compensated by a reduction of 25 per cent.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri):** May I know how long after the first sale by some of these Fair Price Shops was that reduction made, how many days or how many weeks after the first sale?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** It is about 2 or 3 days.

**Mr. P. P. Devassi (Trichur-North):** May I know whether any complaint has been received by any officer of the Department bringing this matter to the notices of the Government?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** Almost all my officers brought it to my notice.

**Mrs. K. Joshua (Trichur-Women):** Cannot action be taken against them?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** No action can be taken, because it is not their fault.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi):** What portion of the inferior quality was sold before any reduction was made?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** I want notice.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri):** Have the Government been able to find out how the inferiority arose? Is it inferior at the place of purchase or where is the deterioration?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** The inferiority is at the place of purchase; because of the excessive rains the paddy got deteriorated.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** May I know whether any surprise visits have been made to measure the quantity given by the Fair Price Shops.

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** In several shops, the Assistant Price Officers have actually measured to ascertain whether there is diminution.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** What was the result of these inspections?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** The result is that we have found that the maximum decrease will be compensated by a reduction of 25 per cent.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** My question is in retailing the rice from the depots or from Fair Price Shops when the rice comes into the hands of the purchaser, whether that rice has ever been measured by surprise visits?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** I myself have measured in several shops, and the officers also have measured.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** Were they correct?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** Sometimes shortage has been found.

**Mr. Joseph Pettah (Adur):** On what quantity of inferior paddy is this reduction made?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** I want notice.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** In how many cases shortage was noticed on inspection.

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** I found in one or two cases. The subordinate officers also found out shortages in a few cases and action was taken.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** Was there any complaint?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** Not on complaint. But it was noticed on inspection.

**Mr. President:** The officers of the Department, as I see, from their diaries are moving round very actively inspecting these Fair Price Shops and licensed retail shops, and they have been encouraged to make surprise inspections.

**Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri):** That information I want the public to note.

**Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam):** May I know whether the Director of Food Supplies is aware that the sugar is not weighed on the ordinary English pound instead of the Cochin State recognised standard?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** They are weighed in Dutch pounds.

**Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam):** There is difference in weight noted by many people in several shops.

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): Whether in English pounds or Dutch pounds, in the quota there is no difference.

**Mr. C. V. Iyyu** (*Kunnamkulam*): I mean the actual weight according to our Government weight is 42 tolas, and the weight used in many of these shops is 40 tolas. That may be rectified, because there is no standard seal on it.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ടി. അച്ചുതൻ: നെല്ലു വാങ്ങുമ്പോൾ പതിനാലു ചെറു നീക്കിവേണം വാങ്ങുവാനെന്ന instruction കൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ലേ?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): The instructions are to purchase good variety of paddy. But during kole time, as I said, owing to excessive rains some paddy deteriorated.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** (*Mattancheri*): Are not the weights looked into when the officers inspect the shops?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): Generally on inspection, the weights are looked into.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** (*Mattancheri*): Will the Government do it once a month?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): It is not possible always. As far as possible we will do it.

**117. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon** (*Cheruthuruthi*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the total paddy purchased by Government from Talappalli and Chittur Taluks after Mundakan crop including Puncha;

(b) if Government have taken care to know that those taluks have enough stock according to Government ration to keep its inhabitants from want of paddy;

(c) if not why do Government shoulder on the poor people the unnecessary cost of transference to and fro of paddy?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) It is not desirable in the public interest to disclose the figures.

(b) Of these two Taluks, there is sufficient paddy grown in the Chittur Taluk to meet the demand there. But as regards Talappalli Taluk it is not self-sufficient.

(c) As far as possible, paddy purchased from a particular area is being distributed in the shape of paddy or rice in that area itself. When it is issued as paddy it has to be stocked in storage depots opened in convenient centres. When it has to be issued as rice it has to be transported to the nearest mills unless there are facilities for hand-pounding.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*): It is stated that Talappalli Taluk is not self-sufficient. Is that correct?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): It is correct.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*): How far is it deficient from self-sufficiency?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): I have no information.

**Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** (*Vadakkancheri*): If you are not quite sure, I don't wish to press it further.

**118. Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether it has been brought to their notice that since the second week of Edavam the paddy supplied by fair price shops do return only a third or less quantity of rice due to the very bad quality of the paddy;

(b) has not Government received in cash the full value fixed for paddy of the normal kind and quality?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) It has been brought to the notice of Government that the paddy distributed from some of the fair price shops in some of the Taluks yielded only a less quantity of rice than usual.

(b) When it was brought to the notice of Government, they took the necessary steps and reduced the price of such paddy by 25%.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon** (*Mulakunnathukavu*): May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government, the proportion between the good paddy yielding rice and the paddy that was spoiled.

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): It was after calculating that we arrived at the reduction of 25 per cent.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu):** May I know the proportionate figure?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** That is 25 per cent.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu):** Good paddy is calculated to yield at least half in terms of rice. May I know whether Government have the idea in fixing this 25 per cent as to what the actual proportion of the paddy is to the paddy admitted to be spoiled.

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** It was somewhere about that proportion.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu):** With reference to answer (b), may I know whether the order has any retrospective effect?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** No. It is not possible.

**Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon (Cheruthuruthi):** May I know from where this useless paddy was purchased?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** It was purchased from several cultivators.

**119. Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether any stock of paddy has been damaged;

(b) if answer to (a) is yes, how much and in what manner?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** (a) No stock of paddy has exactly been damaged. But some paddy got wet due to the heavy rains at the time of purchase and it could not be dried properly. The consequence was that it did not yield the usual out-turn of rice.

(b) About 17,540 bags of paddy.

**120. മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ:** താഴെപ്പേർക്കുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻ്റ് സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ:—

(എ) ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങി ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിന്നു എത്ര ഡെപ്പോകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു; എവിടെയെല്ലാം;

(ബി) ഇപ്പോൾ എത്രയെണ്ണമുണ്ട്; എവിടെയെല്ലാം?

**മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ:** (എ) ചിററൂർ താലൂക്കിൽ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങി ശേഖരിക്കുന്നതിന്നു ആകെ പൂ ഡെപ്പോകൾ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അവ (൧) വല്ലങ്ങി, (൨) അയിലൂർ, (൩) ചിററൂർ, (൪) പട്ടഞ്ചേരി, (൫) നല്ലേപ്പിള്ളി, (൬) തത്തമംഗലം, (൭) കോഴിപ്പാറ, (൮) കൊഴിഞ്ഞാമ്പാറ എന്നീ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലായിരുന്നു.

(ബി) ഇപ്പോൾ ൩ എണ്ണം മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. അവ (൧) നെമ്മാറ, (൨) ചിററൂർ, (൩) കൊഴിഞ്ഞാമ്പാറ എന്നീ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലാകുന്നു.

**മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ:** നെല്ലു ശേഖരിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം തീരെ കഴിഞ്ഞശേഷമാണോ ഈ ഡെപ്പോകളുടെ എണ്ണം ചുരുക്കിയത്?

**മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ:** അതെ.

**121. Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters):** Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware that such vital requirements of the agriculturists as clothing, agricultural implements, etc., have gone up 5 times and more in value after the war;

(b) whether therefore the prices fixed by Government for paddy and tapioca are sufficient;

(c) whether such agricultural products as cocoanut has gone up four or five times in value in recent years;

(d) whether therefore it is not a discrimination against the paddy grower and the tapioca grower in fixing the present price?

**Mr. M. M. Paul (Director of Food Supplies):** (a) Prices have gone up to varying extents. Cloth prices are now coming down.

(b) Government consider that the prices fixed for paddy and tapioca are sufficient at present.

(c) The price of cocoanuts has gone up. It varies from time to time.

(d) No. Prices of other articles fluctuate.

**122. Mr. A. Eachara Menon (Chittur-Rural):** Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they are aware that the price of paddy in the adjoining British parts is about double that of Chittur;

(b) if the price is not equalised either by increasing the price here or by requesting the British Government to control the price there will it not be an incentive for smuggling;

(c) whether they are aware that some difficulty is felt by the absence of good cereal shops since the shop keepers are put to great difficulties in the matter of transport by the British authorities;

(d) will Government consider the advisability of having their own shops or procuring the necessary convenience to merchants to transport goods without being compelled to grease the hands of the checking officers;

(e) have not Government received a petition from the public of Chittur detailing their grievances regarding rationing and the difficulties to get cereals;

(f) what has Government done to it;

(g) will they be pleased to place that petition on the table?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): (a) No.

(b) If the price of paddy in the adjoining British parts is comparatively very high, there may be an incentive for smuggling.

(c) Government have opened Fair Price Shops according to requirements.

(d) If any specific complaints are received against the checking officers, they will be enquired into.

(e) Yes.

(f) The requests contained in the petition were considered in detail and what was possible under the present circumstances was done.

(g) A copy is placed on the table.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon** (*Chittur-Rural*): Have the Government known that they have controlled the price of paddy at Palghat?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): Yes. I know it now. It is not controlled exactly. Government are purchasing paddy and selling at about Rs. 160 per cart.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon** (*Chittur-Rural*): Will that not be an incentive to smuggle paddy?

**Mr. M. M. Paul** (*Director of Food Supplies*): The price is fluctuating. Probably the price may go down immediately.

**Mr. President**: The Madras Government have anticipated that when the new crops come in the Palghat Taluk, the prices will go down.

#### EXPORT OF FISH AFTER THE PERMIT SYSTEM—PARTICULARS OF

123. മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്കു സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ,—

(എ) മത്സ്യം കയറുമതിക്കു എത്ര പെർമിറ്റുകൾ ഇതിനകം കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്;

(ബി) മത്സ്യനിരോധനത്തിനുശേഷം എത്ര ടൺ ഉണക്കമത്സ്യം കയറുമതി ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്; എന്തുതരം മത്സ്യങ്ങളാണ്; ആ തരം മത്സ്യങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ സാധാരണ വിലവുള്ളതാണോ;

(സി) എത്ര കയറുമതി പെർമിറ്റിനുള്ള അപേക്ഷകൾ അനുവദിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്; കാരണമെന്തു്; എന്തുതരം മത്സ്യങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള കയറുമതി അപേക്ഷകളാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ അനുവദിക്കാതിരുന്നതു്;

(ഡി) കുമ്പളം (കൊച്ചികണയന്നൂർ താലൂക്കിൽപെട്ട) ദേശത്തേയ്ക്കു മറ്റു പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും ആകെ ഇതിനകം എത്ര കണ്ടി ഉണക്കമത്സ്യം കയറി അയക്കുന്നതിനു പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്; ആകാണു്; ഓരോ പ്രാവശ്യവും എത്ര കണ്ടി വീതം മത്സ്യം കയറുവാനാണ് പെർമിറ്റു് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്;

(ഇ) കൊച്ചിയിൽ നിന്നും വ്യാജമായി ഏതാനും വള്ളം ഉണക്കമത്സ്യം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലേക്കു കടത്തിയതായി വല്ലവരിൽ നിന്നും വല്ല കമ്പിയിൽ ആക്ഷേപമോ ഗവണ്മെന്റിലേക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ; ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വല്ല അന്വേഷണവും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(എഫ്) മത്സ്യം കയറുന്നതിനു പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഫീഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുമായി വല്ല ആലോചനയും നടത്താറുണ്ടോ; ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ എന്തുകൊണ്ടു്; മേലാലേങ്കിലും പെർമിറ്റു കൊടുക്കുന്നതു് ഫീഷറി ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെന്റുമായി ആലോചിച്ചു നടത്തുന്നതിൽ വല്ല വിരോധവുമുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ (എ) ൧൨ ൫.